

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission****Federal Tax ID: 81-3444753****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission - Tatlawiksuk River Salmon Assessment Project

State Funding Requested: \$170,000
One-Time Need**House District: 38 / S****Brief Project Description:**

Reactivate idled weir, leverage existing federal resources to make more cost effective, focus on building capacity of local residents to monitor salmon population.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$170,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	(\$170,000)
Project Deficit:	\$0

Funding Details:

None

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * This project will bring an idled weir with a number of years of existing data back into to operation to assess runs of Chinook and chum in the lower river. * This project leverages existing federal resources in the weir and associated equipment to make weir operation more cost effective. * The weir be operated by the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission, and the village of Tuluksak, with a focus on building the capacity of residents to monitor the salmon populations they depend on. <p>The Tatlawiksuk River weir was developed by ADFG and provided estimates of salmon escapements for a total of nineteen years from 1998 to 2017. When ADFG stopped their operation of this project in 2017, they left the weir in place at the site on the river.</p> <p>The Tatlawiksuk River is an important producer of both Chinook and chum salmon in the upper portion of the drainage. The Tatlawiksuk River weir is one of only two upper Kuskokwim River salmon enumeration projects that informs the Kuskokwim River Chinook run reconstruction -- the key assessment enabling managers to track the status of the severely declined Chinook populations necessary for subsistence. The long-term data set - nineteen years of data on four species of salmon - adds greatly to the value of the project. In 2011, this weir counted 84,000 chum salmon, making it one of the most important chum producers in the drainage. Restarting the weir project will provide an important assessment of the decline or recovery of chum salmon.</p> |
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The Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fish Commission requests funding to resume operation of this enumeration project which addresses a very important salmon escapement information gap for both Chinook and chum salmon in the upper Kuskokwim River tributaries. Requested funding will support hiring and training local in-region residents as project technicians to install and operate the weir with the support and supervision of our profession fisheries biologists. Capacity building and training of local fisheries technicians is an important contribution of this project.

Project Timeline:

As soon as grant agreement is signed.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Kevin Whitworth
Title: Interim Executive Director
Address: PO Box 190
Bethel, Alaska 99559
Phone Number: (907)545-6206
Email: kevinwhitworth@kritfc.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No